

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today released the following statement on the eve of the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth:

"As a Representative of Lincoln, Nebraska, as an American citizen, and as a man moved by the grand yet simple ideal of equality, I am honored to pay tribute to President Abraham Lincoln on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

"Abraham Lincoln's legacy is now deeply rooted in the American tradition. He led our nation through our greatest and most profound crisis. Though Lincoln's work at healing a fractured nation was tragically and reprehensibly cut short, countless Americans have carried the mantle set forth in his eloquent Gettysburg Address. We work, as Lincoln set forth in his second inaugural address, "to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations." Even today, and even while our nation is under many pressures here at home, it is a testament to Lincoln's legacy that the world still turns to us to lead on critical human rights issues.

"Nebraskans particularly honor him today, for his fight against slavery's entrance into our fledgling state in 1854. His campaign against the Kansas-Nebraska Act prevented the grave injustice of slavery from permeating our great state. Nebraskans, and all Americans, will be forever thankful for Lincoln's stand for the principle enshrined in the preamble to our Declaration of Independence: All men are created equal."

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